

10-1955

# Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 27, no. 2

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## Recommended Citation

RILA, "Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 27, no. 2" (1955). *RILA Bulletin*. Book 54.  
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# BULLETIN

of the

## RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Vol. 27

October 1955

No. 2



Reading Room

## FALL MEETING

of the

## RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

*Thursday, October 27, 1955*

THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

150 Fountain Street

## **Program**

10:15—Registration

10:30—Business Meeting

11:00—"Music and its many missions in everyday life"

Miss Irene Mullick, President, R. I. Philharmonic Orchestra

2:00—Speaker to be announced

3:00—"Three New England Women"

Miss Nancy A. Potter, Assistant Professor of English, University of  
Rhode Island

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### **OUR SPEAKERS**

Miss Irene Mulick is well known in musical circles on the local as well as the national scene. A distinguished pianist, she has led and organized many outstanding musical programs in Rhode Island. Among her many activities, she has been State President of the Federation of Music Clubs; a member of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Music Clubs, and the Library Extension Chairman for the R. I. Federation of Music Clubs.

One of the founders of the R. I. Philharmonic, she has held the Presidency of the Orchestra for the past seven years and part of her work as State Councillor for the Junior Music Clubs has been to encourage young people in the reading of musical biographies, helping them to enrich their understanding of the great musicians of all times.

Dr. Nancy A. Potter is a graduate of Jackson College with a B.S. degree, held a Fellowship in residence at Tufts while working for her Master's and in 1954 received her Ph.D. at Boston University.

She has written about 30 articles for a children's encyclopedia which is to be published in the near future. In addition, she is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and Tau Kappa Alpha. Her specialties are American Literature and Speech.

### **LUNCHEON**

Since there are many fine and varied restaurants all readily available in the downtown area, no luncheon is planned. Your dining pleasure is up to your digestive capacity and/or pocketbook.



## **EXTENSION COURSE IN LIBRARY SCIENCE**

A Library Science course is being held at the Providence Public Library under the auspices of the Extension Division of the University of Rhode Island. Professor Francis Allen, Librarian of the University of Rhode Island Library is giving the course and the enrollment on opening night, September 22, reached the excellent total of fifty-six persons.

The Rhode Island Library Association bows with pride at the interest which the course has awakened in so many busy librarians and knows that the lessons learned will be repaid in ever better service to the community-at-large.

## **SURVEY OF RHODE ISLAND LIBRARIES**

The Survey of public libraries in Rhode Island is nearing completion. It will be presented in its final form during the business session at the Fall meeting. It will contain an analysis of the current situation and several recommendations for future action.

Fifty-nine libraries participated in the survey and because of this splendid cooperation the work of the Committee was considerably easier than anticipated.

## **THE LIBRARY SERVICES BILL, H.R. 2840 and S. 205**

Congress adjourned on August 2, just one week after the House Education and Labor Committee favorably reported H.R. 2840 without amendments by a vote of 20 to 9. Since the Bill was not taken up at this session there is some hope that it may be at the next.

Since the Bill is a measure to rehabilitate and stimulate library development in the rural areas of the United States, the Rhode Island Library Association urges all its members to write to their Congressmen and Senators. This is one time librarians would do well to put their books away for the length of time it would take them to write to *their* Representatives.

## **NEWS FROM CONNECTICUT**

In that fair State, House Bill 877 increasing the state aid to public Libraries from \$100 to \$500 annually on a matching basis, and Senate Bill 190, establishing a Library Service Center in the Middlesex County area were both passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor.

To obtain the benefit of the increased state grant, any free public library may receive a sum equal to the amount appropriated by any town or taxing district up to \$500 provided that the town or taxing district does not reduce the amount previously appropriated.

The Library Service Center which is expected to open the first week in October is being established in Middletown to give consultant service and supplementary book service to the public libraries and the public schools in a 21-town area.

Committed as we all are to the betterment of library service everywhere we can merely hope that our Representatives in Washington will find a way to emulate their colleagues in Hartford.

BULLETIN  
OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION  
R.I.L.A. BULLETIN COMMITTEE

NORBERT BERNSTEIN  
Providence Public Library

PAULINE TWITCHELL  
Brown University Library

CAROL M. GREENE  
Brown University Library

Vol. 27      OCTOBER, 1955      No. 2

*From the Four Corners  
of the State*

**Auburn Public Library**

Our circulation is still going up and so is the number of new readers.

We held a successful Book Worm Reading Program for the small fry this summer. We tried something new this time. We didn't award any prizes to the child reading the most books. We only required fifteen books read, but these had to be approved by the Librarians as suited for the child's grade and ability. Perhaps the children lost a bit of the competitive spirit, but we hope that we helped them to improve on their choice of reading. The closing party gave us all an opportunity to become more acquainted with our Book Worms.

ISABEL S. WALLACE,  
*Librarian*

**Barrington Public Library**

Our book circulation still continues to grow and we had our busiest summer yet.

We have made progress in our redecorating project, getting the Reading Room, Periodicals Room and entrance hall repainted. New draperies are forthcoming as soon as we can all agree on one pattern.

We were finally able to arrange and label a collection of Southern shells given to us by a former resident of Barrington. We have over 100 species and

they are interesting to those who collect shells as well as to those who just like to look at pretty things.

In November we plan to celebrate our 75th Anniversary with an Open House for the town.

SUSAN E. DEMERY,  
*Librarian*

**Brown University Library**

A notable improvement in lighting has been accomplished with the installation of fluorescent fixtures in the Bindery and in the large reading rooms on the main floor. Now our Reference, Periodicals, and Allen Rooms can be flooded with an even glow of candle power. After the conduits for the new lights were laid in the floor of the Humanities Reading Room, the subfloor was patched and new rubber tile laid over the old wood floor. Together with the painting done a year ago, the new catalog cases, and other new tile flooring, these latest improvements should give the John Hay Library a bright and refreshing appearance for next Spring's visit of the New England College Librarians.

Staff changes include two new department heads. Mrs. Helen Thompson, after six years as head of the Circulation Department, has moved to California where her husband has a position as Assistant Professor of History at the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Paul L. Richards replaces her. Dr. Richards received the A.B., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard and recently received the M.S. and L.S. degree from Western Reserve. He begins the college year with a completely new staff of assistants behind the Circulation Desk. Miss Marion Brown, head of Special Collections for the past nine years, leaves in October to become head of a similar department at the University of Toronto Library. Mr. John R. Turner Ettlinger succeeds Miss Brown. He received his B.A. and M.A. from Oxford University and his B.L.S. from McGill University. He has been on the staff of Columbia University Library this past year.



## Deborah Cook Sayles Public Library

During the past year, Deborah Cook Sayles Library has undergone a "face-lifting" which has more than compensated for the inconveniences which the Staff had to endure during the process. Much needed and long postponed outside repairs were made and then the interior was painted in variegated colors. Except for a few days when the Circulation Desk was surrounded by staging, the Library was kept open, during the painting, to the public.

The Pawtucket School Department placed two rooms in the Nathaniel Greene School, in the Fairlawn Section, at the disposal of the Library Board of Trustees and in May of this year an additional branch library was opened there. This Branch is opened to the public on Wednesday from 2 to 8 p.m. and on Friday from 2 to 6.

In April we suffered a great loss in the death of one of our Trustees, Mr. Joseph C. Lovely. Two additional Trustees have since been named: John Diani and Robert T. Burns.

The visits of the classes from the public schools were continued and weekly "tours" were made through the library.

MARION V. LEAHY  
*Acting Librarian*

## East Greenwich Free Library

Mrs. Mae Kennedy, who has been assistant librarian for the past four years, has resigned her position. To fill the vacancy, the Board of Trustees has appointed Mrs. Mary Nichols Rice. Mrs. Rice assumed her duties on October 1st.

The East Greenwich Free Library Association will sponsor a series of free lectures to be held at the library. The first one, scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 18th, will present Mr. Maurice Dolbier.

These lectures, which have been offered for the past few years, have proved very popular with residents of East Greenwich and surrounding area.

MARTHA R. MCPARTLAND  
*Librarian*

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## Elmwood Public Library

The filling of two full-time staff vacancies seems to highlight the news of the Elmwood Public Library this fall. Mrs. Alice S. McPeck, formerly Children's Librarian of the William H. Hall Free Library, Edgewood, and recently Cataloguer at the R. I. School of Design joined our staff August 1st as Children's Librarian. She replaces Miss Isabelle K. Laver who returned to the Providence School Department after a year's leave of absence. In September, Miss Lemoyne Palmer was appointed as Head of Circulation and Reference. She comes from West Hartford, Connecticut, where she was Assistant Branch Librarian at the Julia L. Faxon Library.

Of two part-time summer workers, one, Elizabeth Russell, left for Munich, Germany where, as winner of a Fulbright award, she will study ceramics at the Academy of Fine Arts. The other,

Naomi Bojar is a student in the School of Fine and Applied Art, Boston University.

During the late spring, Mr. Robert E. McMillan of the Providence School Department gave an illustrated lecture in color in the library's auditorium on "Southern California Wonderland".

Our Summer Space Club winner in the Children's Department's Summer Reading Club was Jerry Peisach, age 11, who read 66 books in 66 days.

Circulation during the late summer was particularly heavy; possibly due to threatened hurricanes and summer heat readers sought relaxation in books.

DOROTHY W. BUDLONG  
*Librarian*

### **Foster Public Library**

The Foster Public Library is a completely rural library in the sixth year of its incorporation. Although there is a population of only 3600 people, there were two library corporations in the town when the Foster Public Library was formed. One of these libraries is over fifty years old and serves a very limited number of people for three hours on a Saturday afternoon. The other corporation was started in 1923, in order to build a library building but nothing was ever done about it. The Foster Public Library has become the main library for the town and has succeeded in merging with this second corporation, thus bringing together the largest elements in the town for library progress.

At the annual meeting in April, at which our second aim, that of joining other libraries to form a regional unit, was discussed, a film called "Library on Wheels" was shown. It was very interesting to note that to practically all of the members this film suddenly made clear the real meaning of regional libraries as no lectures has been able to do. A heightened enthusiasm for the whole work of the library was shown, and interest aroused from new quarters.

This interest was partly due to the school library, in its second year, and

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now installed in the principal's office. The value to the children of this library cannot be measured, some mothers told us. With the help of Miss May Massee of the Viking Press and Miss Anne Thaxter Eaton, the children's book expert, we managed to collect a good library in spite of our tiny income of \$100 a year. Due to the popular excitement among the children, the Town Council granted us \$200 extra this year for the purchase of children's books.

ELINOR R. DORMAN,  
*Librarian*

### **Middletown Free Library**

It has recently been said that Middletown is the fastest growing community in the state. We at the library are not totally unprepared for through the years we have tried to improve the book collection and the building. This year with the help of the R. I. Foundation we installed water and public facilities. The 3-roomed Oliphant School next door has always used the library a great deal. Now a new 10-roomed Oliphant School opens this fall and we are wondering just how we can take care of 13 classrooms of children. It is a challenge.

NANCY C. CHASE,  
*Trustee*



## Narragansett Library Association

This is the centennial year of the association, and the sixtieth year of the building. The actual date of celebration comes in October, but preparations for the big day have included physical improvements—a new ceiling, redecoration of the main library, and screens and storm windows. We now expect to have heat in our periodical room, and have opened a reading room.

A local volunteer worker wanted to learn cataloging, and gave two days a week all last winter, thus assisting our recataloging project of biography remarkably.

ENID P. THOMPSON,  
*Librarian*

## North Kingstown Free Library


A vigorous campaign for a more adequate library appropriation, waged by the North Kingstown League of Women Voters early this year, resulted in a 166% increase in tax appropriation for the North Kingstown Free Library and has made possible much needed reorganization and renovation.

The entire book collection, after drastic weeding, is being recatalogued and labelled. Volunteers, from third-graders to adults, have mended hundreds of books and helped in a variety of other ways. A "Friends Of The Library" group has just been organized and a winter's programme of story hours, lectures and exhibits is scheduled.

Varnished oak and drab buff walls have been transformed by a new coat of paint: walls of stratosphere blue and white woodwork delight our visitors. Thanks to a substantial grant from the Rhode Island Foundation emergency repairs are now being made to the library exterior where its great Grecian columns and porch were found to be in hazardous condition due to dry rot and decay.

G. S. HELLEWELL,  
*Librarian*

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## The People's Library

The interior of the People's Library, Newport, has taken on a more modern and cheerful appearance with the painting of three rooms in a soft green with antique ivory trim; the two children's rooms in turquoise with antique ivory and the fiction room, which has walnut woodwork, in a dusty rose. The installation of fluorescent lighting in these rooms is the greatest improvement imaginable and a wish of many years come true.

The Juvenile Department reported the highest circulation on record in School Deposits this past year.

## Providence Public Library

The outstanding news of the year has been the gift of children's books donated by Miss Edith Wetmore, of Newport. This Collection which is still being processed and catalogued comprises over



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The dedication of the Collection was held on October 5 at 4 p.m. in the presence of the Trustees, the Librarian and friends of the Library. Selected volumes from the Collection will be on display at the Library during October and early November.

The following persons have joined the Library staff recently: F. Charles Taylor, Assistant Librarian, formerly of Wichita City Library and the Boeing Airplane Company Library; Miss Jeannette McKee, assistant in the Cataloging Department, of Wellesley Public Library; and Miss Nancy Leete, Children's Librarian at the Rochambeau Branch.

Miss Edna Thayer, Librarian at the Smith Hill Branch will retire at the end of December after some 45 years of service at the Providence Public Library. The Library and her many friends will miss her more than words can express.

The following students have enrolled in the 1955-1956 Library Training Class: Norma D. DiBattista, Cecile J. Dufresne, Ruth Y. Ingraham, Gertrude Johnson, Barbara Lydon, Barbara M. Marandola, Judith A. McCauley and Dolores Votolato.

An outcome of last year's hurricanes has been the recent renovation of the Olneyville Branch. The third floor is no longer in use and all services have been transferred to the ground level.

The Library was host on October 15 to the Boston Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers, and the Librarian and Associate Librarian were on hand to bid them welcome to our ever new Central building.

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**Rhode Island  
School of Design Library**

Jeanne MacCready Borden, Librarian of Rhode Island School of Design since 1949 resigned June 30, 1955 and was succeeded by Alice V. McGrath, formerly a Staff member of the Providence Public Library and the Pasadena Public Library.

Accepting Mrs. Borden's retirement from library work with regret, Dr. Max Sullivan, President of R.I.S.D., paid tribute to "the unusual qualities of administrative skill, temperament and perception characterized by Mrs. Borden in guiding the Library's growth and in strengthening its position as one of the country's finest art reference collections."

Mrs. Borden is a former president of the Rhode Island Library Association.

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**University of  
Rhode Island Library**

The University Library has opened a new reading room in the basement of Green Hall in space formerly occupied by the Bookstore. The area has been set aside for reserve book materials. The new stack installation has been completed by the Art Metal Construction Company and gives additional space for approximately 20,000 volumes. New lighting and new asphalt tile has been installed and this area has made a most attractive and satisfactory reading area. At the same time the material of Biological Sciences has been moved from the first basement area.

The Librarian of the University has been looking forward to conducting the course in Fundamentals of Library Science which is being offered through the University of Rhode Island Extension Division.

F. P. ALLEN,  
*Librarian*

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### **Westerly Public Library**

In cooperation with the Rhode Island Historical Society the Westerly Public Library has completed the filming of one of its early newspapers, the Narragansett Weekly. This newspaper, published in Westerly from 1858 to 1899 by various members of the Utter family, was outstanding not only for its local items but for its presentation of many historical facts concerning the families of Southern Rhode Island and Eastern Connecticut.

A Senior Citizens Group was organized at the Westerly Library last January and has proved so popular that it now numbers more than 125 members with an average weekly attendance of 75. Lectures, plays, group singing form the program, and a hobby show held in the museum with more than thirty members of the group exhibiting, drew visitors from the entire community.

In May, the Library cooperating with the Children's United World Art Foundation arranged for the children of Westerly and Pawcatuck to take part in the American children's "Thank You" exhibition, the most extensive international art project of its kind in the world. More than 100 drawings and paintings were displayed in the Library in addition to the 25 selected to represent Westerly in the national exhibit.

Nineteen persons presented 2194 books to the Westerly Library during the past year. After selecting those needed for its own collection the remainder was shared with smaller libraries in R. I. and Connecticut.

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### **William H. Hall Free Library**

Cranston residents interested in art or merely in finding a pleasant, cool place to spend part of an evening found both at the Second Annual Exhibit of Cranston artists, which opened June 24th at the William H. Hall Free Library.

Portraits and local shore scenes predominated among the sixty oil paintings, watercolors and pastels submitted. James Herbert, a professional artist who headed the jury of awards, congratulated the local artists for "a fine level of paintings."

A special exhibit, not included in the awards competition, was a group of twelve block prints by the late Eliza Gardiner, nationally known Cranston artist who passed away recently. Most of the pictures were for sale and the exhibit was extended throughout the summer.

A flag pole for the Library grounds presented by the Friends of the Library was dedicated on October 16 to the men and women of Edgewood who have served in the Armed Services. The flag was given to the Library by the Nicholas Cooke Chapter, D.A.R.

Our Summer Reading Club had a membership of 160 children. Certificates were awarded on October 8. Though there was no competition everybody read just for fun and the Club proved to be a great success.



# **RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

**1955-1956**

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